

REMARKS

This Amendment is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination.

Applicant thanks Examiner Kackar for his the continued careful examination of the application. Applicant's undersigned counsel also appreciates the indication that claims 1, 3-10 and 24-30 are allowed.

In the last Office action, independent claims 11, 15 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as lacking written-description support or for new matter, as well as under the second paragraph of that statutory section as being indefinite. With respect to claim 11, the Examiner has stated the limitation “conductive at least in a region thereof” appears to be new matter. This limitation in claim 11 refers to the “frame” as claimed. Respectfully, this feature is disclosed in the application as-filed. For example, the Examiner is respectfully referred to claim 3 as-filed, where the frame is said to be “conductive at least regionally.” Please also see the specification, e.g., at p. 6, lines 31-35.

In the Advisory action mailed March 12, 2008, the Examiner stated that claim 11 nonetheless “still suffers from section 112 rejection. Applicants arguments are not persuasive since claim 3 does not have the same scope. Claim 11 has critical information missing.” Respectfully, the Examiner is incorrect. That claim 3 does not have the same scope as claim 11 is irrelevant to whether the limitation that the frame is “conductive at least in a region thereof” is clear in claim 11, or to whether it finds support in the application as-filed. That limitation is certainly clear. It means what it says, namely that the frame in claim 11 is conductive “at least in a region” of the frame; i.e. not necessarily across the entire frame. Claim 3 was cited above and in the Amendment after Final (which has not been entered) not to suggest the two claims have the same scope, but merely to point out there is basis in the application (including in claim 3) as filed for the structure described in claim 11; namely that the frame is conductive in at least a region thereof. Claim 3 as-filed clearly provides basis for this feature, wherein it is said that the frame “is conductive at least regionally,” which means the frame is conductive at least in a region of the frame. Claim 3 was not the only basis cited to provide support for the subject limitation in claim 11. The specification at p. 6, lines 31-35 was also cited, as it is above. That passage is reproduced below for convenience:

It is preferable for the carrier to consist of a nonconductive dielectric material and to be provided with a conductive layer on one side. The frame is conductive at least regionally, and the

carrier is clamped in the frame in such a way that the conductive layer is contact-connected to the conductive region of the frame. (Specification, p. 6, lines 31-35 – emphasis supplied).

The quoted passage clearly provides written-description support for the limitation at issue in claim 11, wherein it is said that the frame “is conductive at least in a region thereof.” The limitation in question in claim 11 simply means that the frame is conductive in at least a region of the frame (i.e. *not necessarily across the entire frame*), which is disclosed both in claim 3 and in the above-quoted passage as-filed. In view of this disclosure, the application as-filed certainly conveys to one having ordinary skill in the art that the applicants were in possession of the claimed structure when the application as filed. The application clearly describes the frame being conductive in at least a region thereof. Accordingly, because the subject limitation is clear, and further because it finds support in the application as-filed, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claim 11 under 35 USC § 112 both first and second paragraphs are overcome, and withdrawal of those rejections is respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 15 and 20, the Examiner has indicated there is a lack of written-description support for the limitation at step (d) of each of these claims. This step was proposed to be amended for clarity in the Amendment after Final, but the Examiner indicated the amendments raised new issues requiring further consideration. Accordingly, those amendments are reproduced herein and are being filed with a Request for Continued Examination to ensure entry and consideration thereof.

For clarity, step (d) in claims 15 and 20 has been revised to state that “a voltage source is connected between the chuck electrode and the conductive layer of the carrier,” as seen above. There is clear basis for this limitation in the specification, e.g. at p. 10, lines 19-32 and p. 20, lines 19-24, which explain that a voltage is applied between the frame (in which the carrier is clamped) and the chuck electrode, the latter reference referring in particular to voltage source 350. It is believed these amendments address the Examiner’s concerns regarding claims 15 and 20, and it is requested the Section 112, second paragraph rejection of those claims be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 11, 15 and 20, and all claims depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance. All other claims have already been allowed. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

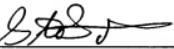
If the Examiner still considers the claims to suffer from any indefiniteness or written-description deficiencies after reviewing the above, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call to expedite resolving any such deficiencies prior to the issuance of a further rejection in this case.

Finally, the Examiner is requested again to please initial U.S. Pat. No. 6,238,160 on form PTO-1449 previously submitted and forward the initialed copy to Applicant with his next communication as requested in the last Amendment. For the Examiner's convenience, a blank copy of that form (which has been previously submitted) is being enclosed herewith.

If there are any fees required by this communication, please charge any such fees to our Deposit Account 16-0820, Order No. KELR-38477.

Respectfully submitted,

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